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THE EDGE

The Voice of Integrity
at Fort Hays State University

October 3, 2006; Volume 2, Issue 3 ●●● Hays, Kansas 67601

Hays Police issues 9 DUIs during Oktoberfest



ZACH BECKER/THE EDGE
A large crowd of people gathered at Frontier Park over the weekend to celebrate Oktoberfest. For more photos, see pages 5 and 6.

Robert Cummins
News Editor

Crime during this year's Oktoberfest weekend was fairly comparable to previous years, according to Hays Assistant Chief of Police Philip Hartsfield.

Hartsfield said the Hays Police Department arrested nine people for driving under the influence, issued eight citations for transporting alcohol in an open container and issued twenty-nine counts of public possession, as well as gave out seven warnings for noise violations. The Hays Police Department issued 19 counts of minor in possession and nine more MIPs were issued by the Alcoholic Beverage Patrol.

This year there were no cases of battery or assaults that would cause serious injury. "There were a few fights, but no serious injury," Hartsfield said. "There were a few incidents with people that

had passed out in a yard or by the side of the road and were non-responsive." EMS was called in each of these cases.

The Hays Police Department worked closely with other agencies during the weekend. Other agencies involved included the Ellis County Sheriff's department, the Kansas Highway Patrol, Alcohol Beverage Control and Fort Hays State University. A helicopter provided by the Highway Patrol was also used by police over the weekend.

"Hays Police Department focused primarily, as always, on public safety," said Hartsfield. "We have a zero tolerance on alcohol related violations, throughout the year. We want people to have fun and enjoy themselves because it is a celebration. We just want everyone to be safe as well."

Hartsfield said the number of

large parties held this year appeared to be down a bit.

"I'm sure there were parties but they must have mostly been smaller groups of people," Hartsfield said.

Hartsfield said the department tried to be very visible this year. Not many of the officers on duty were undercover or in plain cloths. "The purpose was to let you know that every time you turned around, you would see a cruiser going by," he said.

The only new method for law enforcement this year was the addition of the helicopter.

"The (Kansas Highway Patrol) has aviation available to all agencies in Kansas," Hartsfield said. The Hays police had been offered the use of the helicopter for big events throughout the year and Oktoberfest weekend was one of the times chosen to use the helicopter.

Theatre season debuts

Robert Cummins
News Editor

Hurry, it's not too late. Students can still see go see *Kiss Me Kate*.

It debuted over the Homecoming weekend, but three more performances are scheduled for the Fort Hays State University Theatre Department musical.

"The play is a modern re-telling of William Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*," said Kim Miller, director of the production. The main characters of the story are Fred Graham, cast by David Settle, and Lilli Vanessi, cast by Laura Decker.

"Fred and Lilli are a couple that had been married and divorced," Miller said. "They are

constantly fighting, and the fighting plays out on stage."

Kiss Me Kate is described as a comedy and a story that has no deep social message to it. "They aren't clown characters, but they do have an element of the ridiculous on stage," Miller said. "It is a love story, with these self-centered characters."

In the story, the characters attempt a production of William Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*. The play will include portions of *The Taming of the Shrew* in it as well as portions of backstage drama from the characters.

SEE 'KATE'
ON PAGE 7

▼ Student Government Association

Fee increases now subject to student vote

Robert Cummins
News Editor

The results from last week's Student Government Association special election are in.

With a landslide victory, students will now have a direct vote on whether to allow the passage of proposed student fee increases exceeding \$1 per credit hour.

The amendment to the SGA constitution will go into effect next semester.

Out of a reported 4,502 students enrolled on campus and eligible to vote in SGA elections, only 130 turned out for this election. The final count was 106 in favor of the bill and 26 opposed.

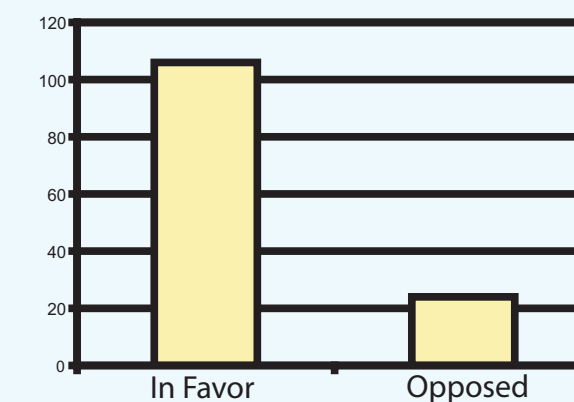
According to Drew Thomas, SGA President, the turnout was a 288 percent increase compared to the last special election.

"I was happy that we got some more people to vote," Thomas said, noting that several students he knows made a special trip to campus specifically to vote in the special election.

As required by the SGA constitution, all amendments to the constitution require a two-thirds majority vote of all Senate membership and then require a simple majority of all voting members of the student body at Fort Hays State before they can be passed.

SGA Special Election Results

Students should have the right to vote on fee increases



Total Voters: 160 students

Possible voters: 4,502 students

Student voter turnout this election: 3.55 percent

EDITORIAL

Damage minimal after festivities

The beerfest is over. The extra police officers in town have gone from whence they came. The helicopter soaring overhead has flown off into the distance. Everything is calm once more. The aftermath? Tickets, and lots of them - for every alcohol offense on the book. That and a heap of trash in Frontier Park. Luckily, there were no major injuries or traffic accidents. No rioting. No murders. No major assaults. No alcohol-poisoning deaths. But perhaps luckily is the word here. The way the entire event is structured, it seems every year the city is just rolling the dice, hoping for the best. Yes, they have taken precautions to maintain safety, and that is a good thing. The extra police on the streets and the addition of a circling helicopter no doubt help protect citizens. But, really, should the city actively stage an event they deem so dangerous as to require a large police force and circling helicopter to maintain order? The event was originally designed to be a celebration of the Volga-German heritage of the area. Somewhere along the way, the whole heritage celebration part of the event was toned way down in favor of the whole drunk-and-disorderly part of the celebration. Well, now the Volga-Germans hold their own Oktoberfest, as they are obviously embarrassed by what the beerfest using their name has turned into. Sure, Oktoberfest as it is currently structured brings in lots of money for the city (both in tourism and in police fines). But if you play with fire, eventually you are going to get burned. It is time for the city to bring back the Volga-German heritage to the event and tone down the drunkenness. Before their luck runs out.

-The Editorial Board

OPINION

Oktoberfest about more than drinking

Drinking beer. When I first heard of Oktoberfest back in high school, the impression I got was all it was for was to drink beer. It was about 12:45 p.m. on Friday that my father showed up at my apartment to go to Frontier Park and by 1 p.m., I had already drank my first beer and was a few good swallows through my second. Dedicated journalist that I am, notebook in one hand, beer in the other, I scanned the landscape of this highly recognized festival of beer and bratwurst. I noted how the port-a-potties lined against the trees near the west entrance of the park added a certain industrial charm to their surroundings. I took another swallow of beer and cracked a bit of a smile as I watched a small child toddle along with very little balance and noticed that several adults around him had the same unbalanced form as they bobbed and stumbled their way around the park. My father, a graduate of this very college in 1984, seemed right at home in these surroundings. Although he had been living a mere forty-seven miles from Hays for most of the time since he graduated, he waited that long twenty-two years to return for Oktoberfest. It was clear to me that he was happy to be there, transporting himself back to a simpler time; before bills, before kids, marriage, house payments... before responsibility. I thought it might be euphoric in a certain sense, a temporarily blissful escape from the day to day. I started to notice that he wasn't the only one experiencing this. As I wandered around the park, beer and notebook still my constant companions, striking up conversations with people as I went, it became clear; Oktoberfest isn't all about the beer. It's a time machine of sorts, sending college alumni, who have long since abandoned their wild sides in favor of becoming loving parents and spouses, back to a day where their happiness was top priority, where it was acceptable to show a certain degree of selfishness, be obnoxious and let your inhibitions disappear. It serves as a reaffirmation of all that was good and enjoyable in their youths. Another thing also became abundantly



Derek Smith
Staff Writer

clear. Beer goes right through me. I spent a lot of time after coming to this latest realization in the midst of the social scene at those charming little Oktoberfest port-potties, admiring the similarities between ancient tribal rain dances and the modern "pee-pee dance" of the beer chugging bladder neglectors in line. "Whatcha got in that notebook?" a fellow pee-pee dancer asked. "I'm keeping notes on the day for a story I'm writing," "Like a news story?" "Yeah," I replied with certain urgency, desperate for the line to shorten. It's always funny to me when people find out I'm writing a news story and certain ones all the sudden turn into important figures trying to stretch the limits of their vocabulary in hopes that they'll be able to see their tiny bit of expert insight printed for all eyes to see. "I don't know about you man, but I come to Oktoberfest to get HAMMERED! YEAH!" How eloquent. And, strangely enough, accurate for most of the younger crowd. At least at first glance. I used the restroom, then bobbed and stumbled back over to where my father and a friend of his stood, dad with a beer in each hand, his friend with only one, a cigarette keeping the free hand occupied. Dad hands me one of his beers, destined to become the sixth I would drink on the day, and would later attribute to another journey back to the pee-pee dance clan. I checked my cell phone for any missed calls, as I was expecting one from a friend who was coming to join the festivities. Just for fun, let's call him Arnold. When I saw that Arnold hadn't called I directed my attention to the man my father was talking to, who was preaching his theories about where the

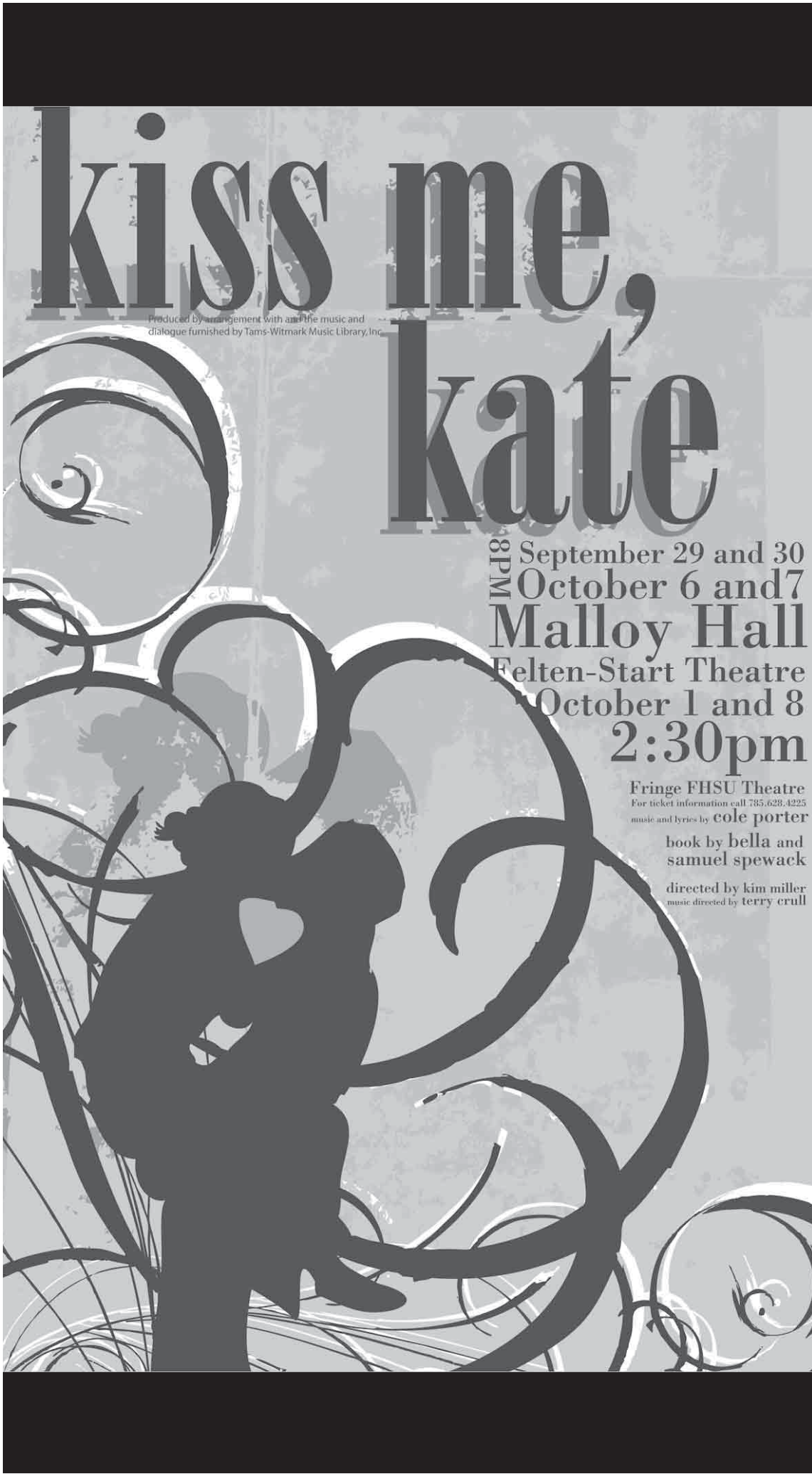
funding for Oktoberfest comes from. My phone soon rang with Arnold on the other end telling me he was in town and wanted to meet at my apartment. I walked there and met him and we sat and talked until my father returned and we all went to a small barbecue in front of my apartment. We chewed on a few hot dogs as an appetizer, then headed out for Gutch's Bar and Grill for some brick oven pizza. My dad spent most of the time at Gutch's searching for a formidable foosball opponent and wondering if there was an alternate door to the banquet room. Meanwhile, Arnold, another friend and I discussed what to do after we ate. We took Dad to my apartment so he could sleep then headed to a house party where we knew there would be a good game of beer pong. After a few good rounds of Hays' fastest growing sport, Arnold and I decided it was time to call it a night, and after listening to about ten minutes worth of a busy signal trying the Safe Ride Hotline (perhaps they should get a few more lines), we decided it was best to walk. On the walk home, talking to Arnold, I began to think. Maybe there's more yet to Oktoberfest. It serves not only as an excuse to drink and party, not even only as a way to relive simpler days. It also serves as a place where friendships, both new and old, bloom or prosper. I noticed this mainly back at Frontier Park, where my father and his college friend, as well as several people he ran into that he knew, reminisced about the old days, laughed and carried on. It had been a long and interesting day, and as Arnold and I slowly navigated our way back to my apartment, I smiled big and yawned in both exhaustion and satisfaction. I came into the day with a very shallow perspective of what Oktoberfest is. I had with me an open mind and a notebook and discovered much different and deeper meaning. I had achieved what I came for and now, as I stood over my bed after the long journey home I remembered those days back in high school when I'd think to myself, why would people want to go somewhere just to drink beer all day?

NEWS

Theatre Department prepares year's shows

Robert Cummins
News Editor

Kiss Me Kate marks the start of the Fort Hays State University Theatre Department season. And, although it may appear effortless on stage, it marks the beginning of another year of hard work for those involved in staging those productions. " (*Kiss Me Kate*) is our season opener, which is kind of fitting, as the show begins by singing *Another Opening, Another Show*," said Kim Miller, director of *Kiss Me Kate* and instructor in communication studies. *Kiss Me Kate* is the fourth play that Miller has directed since coming to Fort Hays State and the eighth play she has directed during her career. However it is her first musical to direct. "This has been a great opportunity for me to stretch my own artistic skills," Miller said. Fort Hays State always opens with a musical on homecoming weekend so that Alumni and some community members have the chance to become involved. "In some ways the musical is a celebration of homecoming and the music will reflect that," Miller said. Typically it would take a minimum of eight weeks of preparation to stage a musical production, she said. However, to be ready by homecoming weekend, the theatre department only had five weeks to work with. "It takes a great deal of dedication to pull this off. And I believe we have pulled it off," Miller said. Last year, the theatre department produced *Cabaret*, a dark musical set between the first and Second World Wars. The premise to the musical was various dreams that the main characters had about life. However looking at what happens historically, the viewers can know that the characters were doomed, said Miller. Other plays recently produced include *A Gypsy*, *Batboy*, and *A Doll's House*. "In our role as an educational theatre, we try to do a musical, a newer play and a classic," Miller said. The next production planned by the theatre department is *Lying in State*, a comedy to be directed by Brenda Mader. The play is about a senator that dies under very mysterious circumstances and the characters discover that he is more popular dead than alive. Fort Hays State University will be the first theatre to produce this play west of the Mississippi River, Miller said. Auditions for roles in this play will be held tonight. "One of the great things about our department is we give students an opportunity to try theatre, but not dedicate their lives to it," Miller said. "At any one time, we have a core of about a dozen students, not all of them theatre majors." Partnering with the Hays Art Council, the theatre department is hosting a fund raiser with a production of *Vanity*. The play is already cast and has performances scheduled for October 20, 21, and 22. The production of *Vanity* is a fundraising effort and therefore not part of the main season for season ticket holders.



kiss me, kate

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THE EDGE

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Mission: *The Edge* newspaper staff strives to act as a voice of integrity on the campus of Fort Hays State University. *The Edge* endeavors to comprehensively cover important events and issues on campus and to approach every article with honesty, accuracy, integrity, fairness and public service in mind.

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Tigers lose Homecoming game to Central Missouri State



At left, Fort Hays State players Alonzo McAdoo and C.J. Lovett sack the CMS quarterback in the homecoming game September 30. At right, Drew Dallas hands off to Denzel Black while Jay Allison blocks.



TOM MANWARREN/THE EDGE

Cole Reif
Sports Editor

Fort Hays State University’s homecoming celebrations came to grinding halt after a 37-14 loss to Central Missouri State University Saturday afternoon.

The Tigers endured a heavy dose of crafty play from Mules’ quarterback Toby Korrodi, who threw for 300 yards and two touchdowns.

Korrodi struck quickly in the first quarter as he hooked up with wide receiver Brooks Faddis on an 8-yard touchdown pass, giving Central Missouri an early 7-0 lead.

After giving up the early touchdown,

the Tiger defense held the Mules to two field goals for the remainder of the first half after they started in great field position.

“Our defense really plays extremely hard,” Tiger head coach Kevin Verdugo explained in his post-game interview on Tiger Radio Mix 103. “If I have one critique of us right now, I’d like to see us play screens a little better. People seem to throw those on us quite a bit, and I’d like to do a little bit better on third down.”

Fort Hays State finally got on the scoreboard with 3:49 left to go in the second quarter as junior Jordan Hickel made a 3-yard touchdown run. Hickel finished with

63 yards rushing while catching three receptions out of the backfield.

“(Hickel) is what I’d call the ultimate team player,” Verdugo said. “He is an extremely classy kid, and he gives this program, this university and this community everything he’s got.”

Trailing 13-7 coming out of the locker room, the Tigers surrendered ten points before answering back with a scoring drive of their own at the start of the fourth quarter. Fort Hays State faced fourth and 14 and sent punter Tyler Elder out to kick it away, but instead Elder took the snap and raced down the right sideline for 28 yards

McCullough gives 'B' squads chance to run at Emporia

Cole Reif
Sports Editor

Everybody loves the playing time. Fort Hays State’s cross country coach, Jason McCullough, showed the “B” squads some love as the usual varsity runners received the weekend off at the Emporia State Invitational

last Saturday. The Tiger men finished ninth overall while the women’s team snagged an eighth place finish.

Sophomore Guatam Dandu capitalized on the PT the most as he led the Tiger men with a time of 27:47 to garner 45th place. Not too far behind Dandu, senior John

Welsh clocked in at 27:54 to finish in 50th place. Freshman Justin Riggs and sophomore Brady Kentfield completed the Tigers scoring with 60th and 72nd finishes respectively.

Junior Katie Kersenbrock set the pace on the women’s side with a 25th place finish in a time

of 20:21. Senior Alicia Trujillo received 36th place ending the race in 20:55, and freshman Kyleene Kirmer finished in 21:35, good enough for 50th place. Mallory Joseph (67th) and Darla Wood (88th) also participated.

Pittsburg State University swept the competition as they

took first place in both the men’s and women’s teams.

The Tiger runners will now host their own invitational this Saturday. Fort Hays State’s teams both took sixth in the Fort Hays State University Invitational last year. The meet is set to begin at 10 a.m.

Volleyball struggles continue

Cole Reif
Sports Editor

The Tiger volleyball team appeared to have built some momentum going into last weekend’s matches against Missouri Western and Northwest Missouri State.

With the home crowd behind them, they picked up their first Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletic Association victory against Southwest Baptist and convincingly took out Bethany College two matches later.

Someone forgot to pack the momentum on the bus though, as the Tigers fell to Missouri Western Friday night, 30-18, 30-25, and finally 30-17.

Fort Hays State committed 24 attacking errors and could not contain Missouri Western.

The Griffons had a .354 hitting percentage and 44 kills.

The Tiger momentum officially stopped the following day as Fort Hays State lost to Northwest Missouri State in three straight games, 30-21, 30-23, and 30-21.

Sophomore Leanna Roberts and junior Sarah Schinstock led the Tigers in kills with nine apiece.

The losses set the Tigers back to 3-19 overall and 1-7 in the MIAA. They look to work things out for tonight’s match-up at Nebraska-Kearney at 7 p.m.

CONGRATS

Durin "DJ" West

NSSE Survey iPod Winner

Be watching for NSSE 2007 in the Spring for your chance to win.

Special Thanks
to everyone who filled out the NSSE survey

▼ Brandon's Reality Check

Oktoberfest: Was a helicopter necessary?

What a weekend.

It was pure madness for roughly three days straight.

Between the massive hordes of police officers, sheriffs deputies, highway patrolmen, and that paranoia-inducing helicopter, you’d think they were on a man-hunt for a convicted serial killer, drug kingpin or some other volatile and dangerous criminal.


But instead, they used it all on roughly 2,000 college kids whose main priority was getting massively intoxicated in the name of a town’s “heritage.”

Can anyone else smell their tax dollars being thrown away?

I surely can.

Now, understand that the extra law enforcement presence is wholly understood. When the town's 50 cops are taking on a horde of surly individuals looking for their next party fix, we all know taking extra precautions is more than necessary.

But to use a *helicopter*?



Brandon Worf
Staff Writer

Without being entirely critical of the whole law enforcement team in Ellis County, they seemed to overdo the entire aerial support concept.

Sure, the masses may have needed some crowd control, but they the helicopter was just too much.

There are more effective ways of preparing for and dealing with the antics of those who feel they must enter a chemically altered state of consciousness in large groups.

Assuming that the helicopter was just used for lighting from above, one could surmise that the lighting conditions down in the

student-living districts are less than desirable.

Now, if the city of Hays, in its infinite wisdom and prudence, would spend our tax dollars in a more meaningful way, things might be a little easier to take care of: in short, replace the burnt out light bulbs in the existing streets, and (God forbid) add some more lighting to create a little bit more ambient light.

I’m not suggesting to make it seem like daylight at night, but adding one or two street lights per block will add enough lighting to keep things in check (not only that, but it could potentially reduce crimes such as vandalism and theft in that area).

Anybody who drives down Sixth or Seventh streets at night knows that one practically needs night vision to navigate down the street.

This option would most certainly be cheaper than draining a couple thousand bucks an hour on



aviation fuel, and the remaining amount could be applied in more practical functions (e.g. staffing an extra on-call Emergency Medical Services unit, setting up more DUI checkpoints, etc.).

In this case, I think it was a scenario of the boys in blue wanting to get out and play with one of their toys.

That’s understandable, since the public did pay for them to get it in the first place.

It would be just as asinine to let it sit around doing nothing at all.

The helicopter's presence just goes to show us all that it the Kansas Highway Patrol was entirely justified to buy it in the first place.

Instead of using the staffed bicycle police and patrolling officers to respond to fights, prevent DUI-related accidents and to disperse large, potentially unruly crowds, they found it more highly imperative that they first issue

tickets on every public alcohol possession/consumption and/or underage possession/consumption violation.

This may just be my opinion, but public urination, while a nuisance and slightly unsanitary, holds a lower spot on my priority list to more important matters (such as immediate public safety).

It’s unfortunate that we have to watch our public funding get burned on things like this, when they could honestly be put to some more useful and justifiable causes, instead of catering to the special interest groups, businesses and quota lists.

However, it makes one wonder if the concerns of those of us who aren’t oblivious to what’s going on are really being heard or just merely falling on deaf ears.

In the mean time, keep it real, and keep your reality off the TV. There’s more to life than cheap crime scene shows

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OKTOBERFEST & HOMECOMING



ZACH BECKER, TOM MANWARREN & BRANDON WORF/ THE EDGE

Fort Hays State students, faculty and alumni, as well people from the Hays community, came out to celebrate Oktoberfest at Frontier Park and the Homecoming festivities on campus last weekend. Pictured fourth photo from right on the bottom are Homecoming King and Queen Jed Fleske and Tommi Dechant, along with Fort Hays State President Ed Hammond.

